

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 02309 301322 Z

45

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 EA-13 ADP-00 SS-14 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 EB-03 DODE-00

RSR-01 /073 W

----- 076237

R 300955 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5341

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2309

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NP, IN UR

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON KING BIRENDRA

LIMDIS

REF: KATHMANDU 2272; STATE 102229; MOSCOW 6092 (NOTAL)

1. KING BIRENDRA RECEIVED ME AT MAIN PALACE FOR FAREWELL CALL
AS SCHEDULED MAY 27 (REF TEL A).

2. AS I HAD SURMISED, KING OPENED BY EXPRESSING GREAT IMPORTANCE
HE ATTACHES TO MAINTENANCE U S PRESENCE THIS PART OF WORLD,
AND SAID HE FELT SOVIET POSITION HAS STRENGTHENED BECAUSE OF
EVENTS LAST FEW YEARS AND CREATED " QUITE A NEW SITUATION."
RESPONSE MY QUERY THIS PERCEPTION, KING SAID WHILE INDIANS DO
NOT SEE THEMSELVES AS INSTRUMENTS OF SOVIETS, HE FELT SOVIET
RELATIONSHIP HAS ALTERED THE BALANCE AND, AS HE TOLD SECRETARY
RUSH, INDIANS NOW SEEM CONFIDENT AND ABLE EXECUTE " JUST
ABOUT ANY COURSE THEY WISH IN REGION." HE SAID BOTH SOVIETS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 02309 301322 Z

AND INDIANS HAVE INTEREST IN PUSHING NEPAL INTO BEING ANTI-CHINESE. FOR MY PART, I SHARED ASSESSMENT REFTEL B (WHICH MOST HELPFUL) WITH KING. AS REGARDS U S POLICY, I CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO SOUTH ASIAN SECTION PRESIDENT' S REPORT TO CONGRESS, WHICH HE HAD JUST RECEIVED, AND SAID I THOUGHT THIS SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERABLE REASSURANCE TO NEPAL AS IT SOUGHT TO COPE WITH CONFLICTING PRESSURES FROM INDIA AND SOVIETS ON ONE HAND, AND CHINA ON OTHER.

3. HIS MAJESTY SAID INDIANS HAVE ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVE-- THAT OF SEEKING DOMINANCE IN NEPAL. THEY ARE AT PRESENT BEHAVING " VERY CORRECTLY," AS MRS GANDHI SOUGHT REASSURE HIM DURING HER VISIT. NEVERTHELESS IN PAST THEY SOUGHT ESTABLISH THEIR POSITION THROUGH INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AND THEIR PRESENT COURSE, HE BELIEVES, IS LIKELY TO BE PRESSURE ON ECONOMIC FRONT. IN THIS SORT OF GAME, KING SAID, HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE THE SOVIETS STAND OR WHAT THEY WOULD DO. I AGREED NEPAL COULD EXPECT ECONOMIC PRESSURES FROM INDIA TO GROW WHETHER BY DESIGN OR AS RESULT INTERNAL SITUATION IN INDIA (CITING AREAS WHERE COMMODITY SHORTAGES ARE ALREADY HOLDING UP DEVELOPMENT), AND SAID THAT AS INDIA SEEKS TO MEET INTERNAL PROBLEMS BY NATIONALIZATION, PRESSURES ON NEPAL TO NATIONALIZE WOULD INCREASE AND PERHAPS PLACE SEVERE STRAINS ON INSTITUTIONS NOT YET READY TO ASSUME SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES IN NEPAL. IN THIS REGARD, I NOTED THAT U S HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ROLE OF ASSISTING NEPAL IN INSTITUTION BUILDING IN PAST, AND STANDS READY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THIS AREA IN FUTURE.

4. IN CONTEXT HIS REMARKS CONCERNING NEW INDIAN CONFIDENCE, KING BROUGHT UP SIKKIM. HE SAID HIS READING IS THAT NEPALESE RESIDING INDIA HAD BEEN ADVISED STEER CLEAR OF NEPAL, BUT THEIR ATTENTION AND ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN DIVERTED INSTEAD TO SIKKIM (EARLIER, KING' S FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER, CHIRAN THAPA, TOLD DCM HMG HAD " DEFINITE INFORMATION" INDICATING GOI INTRODUCED INTO SIKKIM LARGE NUMBER NEPALESE AGITATORS WHO WERE " LOWER- ECHELON" ADHERENTS IN INDIA OF BANNED NEPALI CONGRESS PARTY). HE FELT INDIANS HAD BEEN ENCOURAGING THEM AND SIKKIM NEPALESE TO EXPRESS LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES, BUT EVENTS HAD TRANSPIRED IN WAY WHICH PROBABLY EVEN SIKKIM NEPALESE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED AND NOW THEY ARE " STUCK WITH IT." ONLY PLAYER WHO HELD ALL CARDS WAS INDIANS, AND THEY, CONSEQUENTLY, MOVED IN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KATHMA 02309 301322 Z

AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW PRESENT ARRANGEMENT WILL WORK OUT, BUT HE THINKS THERE WILL BE FUTURE TROUBLES IN SIKKIM.

5. IN PARTING , I ASKED KING WHEN HE MIGHT BE VISITING US FOR UNGA. HE SAID HE WILL DEFINITELY NOT BE GOING THIS YEAR. HIS INTENTION IS TO ATTEND ALGIERS NON- ALIGNED SUMMIT, AND THEN

VISIT " NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES-- INDIA AND CHINA," MENTIONED POINTEDLY
IN THAT ORDER.
LAISE

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KATHMA02309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730555/aaaajune.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <29-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980305
Subject: FAREWELL CALL ON KING BIRENDRA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, NP, UR
To: DACCA
HONG KONG
ISLAMABAD
KABUL
MOSCOW
NEA
NEW DELHI

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005